

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-impervious base sheet defining front and rear waist regions opposed to each other and a crotch region extending in a longitudinal direction of said article between said front and rear waist regions;

a liquid-absorbent panel extending over said crotch region and further into said front and rear waist regions;

said base sheet having, in said front and rear waist regions, a waist-surrounding end zone extending in a transverse direction of said article, a pair of waist lateral zones extending in the longitudinal direction and, in said crotch region, a pair of crotch lateral zones extending in leg-surrounding directions, respectively;

said base sheet being provided with

a waist-surrounding first elastic member extending in the transverse direction along said waist-surrounding end zone and being contractible in said transverse direction,

a plurality of waist-surrounding second elastic members lying below said first elastic members and being contractible in said transverse direction, and

a plurality of leg-surrounding elastic members extending along said crotch lateral zones in the leg-surrounding directions, respectively, and being contractible in said leg-surrounding directions, respectively;

said second elastic members being located in said crotch region and at least one of said front and rear waist regions and spaced apart one from another by a predetermined interval in said longitudinal direction; and

said waist lateral zones being connected together to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes;

wherein

each of said second elastic members has

fixed end portions secured to said waist lateral zones and said crotch lateral zones in vicinities of respective side edges of said lateral zones, and

a free middle portion connecting and extending between said fixed end portions across said panel in said transverse direction and being directly secured neither to said base sheet nor to said panel; and

said free middle portions of said second elastic members and said leg-surrounding elastic members cross, without intersecting, one another in at least said crotch lateral zones and are not secured together at their crossing points.

2. (previously presented) The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the fixed end portions of the second elastic members located in said crotch region are closer to the respective side edges of said crotch lateral zones than said leg-surrounding elastic members.

3. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein the second elastic members located in said at least one of said front and rear waist regions have a contracted state in which a ~~transverse~~ dimension of said second elastic members as measured in the transverse direction is substantially the same as a transverse dimension of said panel as measured in the transverse direction between transversely opposite side edges of said panel.

4. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein:

said base sheet comprises a first sheet ~~lying on the side of said panel~~ and a second sheet, ~~lying outside~~ said first sheet being sandwiched between said panel and said second sheet; and
said first and second elastic members as well as said leg-surrounding elastic members are interposed between said first sheet and said second sheet.

5. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 4, wherein:

said base sheet has a third sheet interposed between said first sheet and said second sheet;

said second elastic members are interposed between said first and third sheets or between said second and third sheets;

said leg-surrounding elastic members are interposed between the pair of sheets other than the pair of sheets sandwiching said second elastic members; and

said second elastic members ~~[[and]]~~ are separated from said leg-surrounding elastic members ~~are spaced apart one from another with by~~ said third sheet lying ~~therebetween~~ between said second and leg-surrounding elastic members, thereby ensuring that said second elastic members are not secured to said leg-surrounding elastic members at the crossover points of said second and leg-surrounding elastic members.

6. (previously presented) The wearing article according to claim 4, further comprising a plurality of welding spots at which the sheets sandwiching said second elastic members are bonded together;

wherein said welding spots are formed in vicinities of transversely opposite side edges of said panel, lie between each pair of adjacent free middle portions of said second elastic members, and are spaced apart one from another by a predetermined distance in said longitudinal direction.

7. **(currently amended)** The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said panel comprises

a liquid-pervious upper layer sheet adapted to face a wearer's skin, and

a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said upper layer sheet and said ~~[[core]]~~ base sheet.

8. **(currently amended)** A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:

a liquid-impervious base sheet defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, and a crotch region extending between the front waist region and the rear waist region in a longitudinal direction of said article, said front and rear waist regions being attached to each other along transversely opposite side edges thereof so as to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes;

a liquid-absorbent panel attached to an inner side of said base sheet;

a first elastic member extending along a peripheral edge of said waist-hole;

a plurality of second elastic members extending across said liquid-absorbent panel in at least one of said front and rear waist regions and between the transversely opposite side edges of said front and rear waist regions; and

a plurality of third elastic members extending along peripheral edges of said leg-holes;

wherein each of said second elastic members has

opposite end portions located outward beyond transversely opposite side edges of said liquid-absorbent panel and being secured to said base sheet, and

a middle portion connecting said opposite end portions, extending between the transversely opposite side edges of said liquid-absorbent panel, and being free of direct attachment to both said base sheet and said liquid-absorbent panel; and

wherein the middle portions of said second elastic members cross over said ~~[[first]]~~ third elastic members and are not secured to said third elastic members at crossover points of said second and third elastic members.

9. **(currently amended)** The article of claim 8, wherein said article has a relaxed state in which the middle portions of said second elastic members are allowed to contract to a ~~transverse~~ dimension which, as measured in a transverse direction of said article, is substantially the same as

or slightly larger than a transverse dimension of said panel as measured in the transverse direction between the transversely opposite side edges thereof.

10. (previously presented) The article of claim 8, wherein each of said second elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said base sheet except at the opposite end portions.

11. **(currently amended)** The article of claim 10, wherein
said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second and third elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said base sheet further comprises a third sheet disposed between said first sheet and said second sheet; and

said second elastic members ~~[[and]]~~ are separated from said third elastic members ~~are spaced apart one from another~~ by said third sheet lying between said second and third elastic members, thereby ensuring that said second elastic members are not secured to said third elastic members at the crossover points of said second and third elastic members.

12. (previously presented) The article of claim 11, wherein
said second elastic members are disposed between said second sheet and said third sheet;
said base sheet further comprising bonding spots joining said third and second sheets in regions located between the middle portions of adjacent said second elastic members, said bonding spots limiting displacement of the middle portions of said second elastic members in the longitudinal direction of said article without affecting contraction of said middle portions in a transverse direction of said article.

13. (previously presented) The article of claim 8, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said base sheet further comprising bonding spots joining said first and second sheets in regions located between the middle portions of adjacent said second elastic members, said bonding spots limiting displacement of the middle portions of said second elastic members in the longitudinal direction of said article without affecting contraction of said middle portions in a transverse direction of said article.

14. (currently amended) The article of claim 13, wherein some of said bonding spots are arranged along said transversely opposite side ~~[[zones]]~~ edges of said panel and between entire said panel on the one hand and the end portions of said second elastic members on the other hand.

15. (currently amended) The article of claim 13, wherein said base sheet, in ~~[[a]]~~ an entire region underlying ~~corresponding to~~ said panel, is free of said bonding spots.

16. (previously presented) The article of claim 13, wherein said bonding spots are presented between every pair of adjacent said second elastic members so as to prevent said adjacent second elastic members from forming a bundle with each other.

17. (previously presented) The article of claim 10, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, said first sheet is disposed between said liquid-absorbent panel and said second sheet, and said second elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said article further comprising at least one third sheet carrying printed indicia in a region corresponding to the middle portions of said second elastic members;

said third sheet being disposed between said second elastic member and said second sheet, and secured to said second sheet.

18. **(currently amended)** The article of claim 8, wherein said base sheet comprises first and second sheets, and said second and third elastic members are disposed between said first and second sheets;

said base sheet further comprising a plurality of adhesive zones bonding said first and second sheets and end portions of said third elastic members together;

each of said adhesive zones being disposed, in the longitudinal direction, between the middle portions of one pair of adjacent said second elastic members, and, in a transverse direction of said article, between entire said panel on the one hand and one of the end portions of each of said second elastic members in said pair on the other hand.

19. (previously presented) The article of claim 18, wherein each of said adhesive zones is spaced in the longitudinal direction of said article from the middle portions of the adjacent second elastic members between which said adhesive zone is disposed.

20. **(currently amended)** The article of claim 19, wherein each of said adhesive zones is elongated in ~~[[a]]~~ the transverse direction of said article, and spaced in said transverse direction from the end portions of the adjacent second elastic members between which said adhesive zone is disposed.

21. **(new)** The article of claim 20, further comprising

a plurality of further adhesive zones different from the adhesive zones that bond said first and second sheets and the end portions of said third elastic members together, said further adhesive zones bonding the end portions of the second elastic members to the base sheet;

wherein each of said adhesive zones is spaced in said transverse direction from the further adhesive zones at the end portions of the adjacent second elastic members between which said adhesive zone is disposed.

22. **(new)** The article of claim 5, wherein said third sheet carries printed indicia in a region corresponding to the middle portions of said second elastic members;

 said third sheet being disposed between said second elastic member and said second sheet, and secured to said second sheet.